

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-11

AID-05 CU-02 /075 W

----- 108185

R 031438Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9532

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIRNSA

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

13 AF/CC CLARK AFB PHIL

13 AF/CV UTAPAO

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK TH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 4925

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, MARR, MILI, TH

SUBJECT: NSCT PRESS CONFERENCE ON U.S. MILITARY IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 4737

SUMMARY: AT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 2, NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND COMMENTED ON U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE HERE, THEN SENT DELEGATION TO DELIVER LETTER TO EMBASSY ASKING FOR APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR "FOR DISCUSSION TOWARD AN UNDERSTANDING AND FOR THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE IN THE FUTURE..." THE DELEGATION HAS BEEN INVITED TO MEET WITH POLCOUNSELOR MARCH 4 AT THE CHANCERY.

1. FOLLOWING IS A USIS TRANSLATION OF PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 2 BY THIRACHAI MARUKAPITAK, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, NSCT.

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2. BEGIN TEXT:

THIRACHAI: WHEN STUDYING AMERICA'S ATTITUDE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ESPECIALLY AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD THAILAND, THE QUESTION THAT MUST BE ASKED IN REGARD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN BASES IS, WHAT WILL BE LEFT BEHIND?

REPORT: OH, AND IF THEY SAY THAT THEY WILL KEEP ADVISORS HERE, THEN WHAT WILL YOU SAY?

THIRACHAI: ADVISORS? THE NSCT HAS NEVER OPPOSED THEIR PRESENCE IF THERE ARE JUSTIFIABLE REASONS FOR ADVISORS TO CONTINUE REMAINING HERE, BUT THEY MUST BE IN A PROPER AND SUITABLE NUMBER. FURTHERMORE, OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BRITAIN, FRANCE, GERMANY, AND AUSTRALIA HAVE ADVISORS IN THAILAND ALSO. THEREFORE, IT IS NOT AT ALL STRANGE FOR AMERICA TO HAVE ADVISORS IN THAILAND. BUT THEY MUST BE IN A PROPER AND SUITABLE NUMBER, NOT FOR AS MANY AS 4,000 MEN TO BE LEFT HERE, ACCORDING TO A NEWS REPORT ISSUED BY THE EMBASSY. FOUR THOUSAND MEN CAN BE CONSIDERED AS A FAR LARGER NUMBER THAN IS NECESSARY. MY VIEW IS THAT THOUSANDS OF MEN SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED FOR THE AMOUNT OF WORK CARRIED ON JOINTLY BY AMERICANS AND THAIS. AT MOST, 100 OR 200 MEN SHOULD BE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT. THERE IS NO INDEPENDENT COUNTRY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WHICH HAS THOUSANDS OF FOREIGN ADVISORS STATIONED IN IT. (FYI, TO KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT: THIS EMBASSY HAS ISSUED NO RPT NO NEWS REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL TO BE LEFT HERE.)

REPORT: SUPPOSE THERE WERE 100-200 ADVISORS LEFT HERE, MOST OF THEM WOULD BE RAMASUN CAMP...

THIRACHAI: WE WILL GO AND SOUND THE ATTITUDE OF THE EMBASSY REGARDING ELECTRONIC STATIONS AT RAMASUN, ON KO KHA IN LAMPANG PROVINCE, AND ON DOI INTHANON IN CHIANG MAI PROVINCE. IN OTHERS WORDS, ALL BASES, AIRBASES WILL BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN, BUT THOSE THREE SITES WILL BE RETAINED. THEREFORE, WE WANT TO KNOW WHY AMERICAN IS RETAINING THOSE THREE SITES, AND WHAT USE IT WILL PUT THEM TO. SPEAKING FRANKLY AND TRUTHFULLY, THE WORK PERFORMED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY ALLTHOSE THREE SITES IS ESPIONAGE, ESPIONAGE OF NEWS FROM VARIOUS ASIAN COUNTRIES. THIS IS WHAT IS CONSIDERED AS CONSTITUTING INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THOSE STATIONS ON DOI INTHANON IN CHIANG MAI, IN KO KHA IN LAMPANG AND IN RAMASUN ARE STATIONS TO INTERCEPT AND LISTEN IN TO VARIOUS REPORTS ON THE ASIAN CONTINENT. THE STATION IN KO KHA IS A RADAR STATION TO CHECK ON AND MEASURE TREMORS OF THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH

CAUSED BY NUCLEAR TESTS OR TO CHECK ON RESULTS OF THE
LAUNCHING OF A SATELLITE INTO SPACE FOR RECONNAISSANCE WORK.
THE RADAR STATION ON DOI INTHANON DETECTS MOVES OF VARIOUS
KINDS OF WEAPONRY WITHIN A VERY LARGE RADIUS. THE WORK
PERFORMED BY THE DOI INTHANON RADAR IS TO ETECT, FOR
EXAMPLE, PLANES WHICH TAKE OFF AND FLY IN WHAT DIRECTION,
WHERE ROCKETS OR MISSILES FALL, ETC. ALL THIS WORK
PERFORMED BY THOSE STATIONS IS NOT OF ANY IMPORTANCE AT
ALL OF BENEFICIAL IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER TO THAILAND. THIS
IS WHY I WANT TO KNOW WHY AMERICAN WANTS TO RETAIN THOSE
THREE SITES AND HOW IT WILL USE THEM AS WELL AS WHETHER
THAILAND WILL OBTAIN ANYTHING AND WHAT OR IN WHAT WAY FROM
THEM.

REPORTER: AND AFTER HAVING HELD NEGOTIATIONS, WILL
ANOTHER PROTEST BE STAGED?

THIRACHAI: A PROTEST WILL BE STAGED FOR CERTAIN.
ON MARCH 4, I WILL INVITE REPORTERS AS WELL AS FOREIGN
CORRESPONDENTS TO BE MEMBERS OF THE NSCT COMMITTEE AND GO
WITH US. PRESIDENTS OF STUDENTS' ORGANIZATIONS OF VARIOUS
UNIVERSITIES WILL GO WITH US ALSO.

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REPORTER: AND SHOULD HE PROMISE...

THIRACHAI: MY PLAN IS TO MAKE THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND BASIC FACTS, AND A LETTER MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT DEMANDING IT TO CONSIDER THOSE THREE SITES IN A THOROUGH AND CAREFUL MANNER, NOT TO BE CARELESS TO THE EXTENT OF BRINGING WAR INTO OUR COUNTRY AGAIN.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THE NSCT DOES NOT WANT THOSE THREE STATIONS TO REMAIN IN EXISTENCE?

THIRACHAI: IF HE CAN PROVE THAT THOSE THREE STATIONS ARE NOT INTERFERING IN THE INTERANL AFFAIRS OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THAT THEY ARE OF USE TO OUR COUNTRY, AND IF ALL ADVISORS, ALL MILITARY MEN AND ALL TECHNICIANS WHO ARE AMERICANS AND STATIONED IN THOSE THREE STATIONS ARE UNDER THAI LAW, POSSESSING RIGHTS EQUAL TO THOSE POSSESSED BY ADVISORS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, AND IF HE GIVES AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANSWER THAT IS SATISFACTORY UNDER THOSE PRINCIPLES, THEN OKAY.

REPORTER: (INAUDIBLE)

THIRACHAI: YES. AFTER WE HAVE GONE AND HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND, WE WILL CALL ANOTHER MEETING OF THE NSCT IN ORDER TO DETERMINE OUR ATTITUDE. WHETHER WE WILL GO AND MEET THE FOREIGN MINISTER OR AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL DEPEND ON CONSULTATIONS HELD AT ANOTHER MEETING OF THE NSCT. I, HOWEVER, THINK THAT WE WILL MOST PROBABLY HAVE TO GO TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

REPORT: IT IS REPORTED THAT UTAPAO WILL BE USED...

THIRACHAI: THE PEOPLE AS WELL AS STUDENTS IN GENERAL NOW UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY AND ALL BASES, INCLUDING UTAPAO AIRBASE ALSO, MUST AND WILL BE WITHDRAWN. THEREFORE, IF AMERICANS CONTINUE INSISTING THAT THEY WILL USE THOSE THREE STATIONS, IT WOULD NOT BE AT ALL PROPER AND SUITABLE. ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO COMPEL THEM TO PULL OUT OF THOSE THREE STATIONS AT ALL COST. SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT NOT MAKE ANY MOVE, SHOULD IT REMAIN

INDIFFERENT, THEN WE WILL CONSIDER THAT THE PROCLAMATION IT ISSUED THAT AMERICAN BASES WILL BE COMPLETELY PULLED OUT FROM THAILAND BY MARCH 20 IS A PROCLAMATION THAT IS DISTORTED IN ORDER TO DELUDE THE PEOPLE. FURTHERMORE, SHOULD THE THAI GOVERNMENT STILL ALLOW IT TO REMAIN AT THOSE THREE SITES, WE WILL CONSIDER THAT ITS ACTION IS A DISTORTION OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF BASES, THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO WITHDRAWAL IN EARNEST.

REPORTER: (INAUDIBLE)

THIRACHAI: IN THAT CASE, CAMPAIGNS WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN EVERY REGION AND PROVINCE OF THAILAND. THAT IS CERTAIN.

REPORTER: WILL PROTESTS AND PROCESSIONS OR OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIONS LIKE THAT BE STAGED?

THIRACHAI: YES. BUT WHETHER PROCESSIONS WILL BE STAGED OR NOT WILL DEPEND ON THE SUITABILITY OF THE SITUATION.

REPORTER: WILL YOU GO PRESENTLY IN ORDER TO PRESENT A LETTER?

THIRACHAI: YES.

REPORTER: WILL YOU GO ALONE?

THIRACHAI: SOME NSCT OFFICIALS WILL ACCOMPANY ME.

REPORTER: (INAUDIBLE)

THIRACHAI: THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW. CONSULTATIONS MUST BE HELD AGAIN. HAVE ANY MORE QUESTIONS?

REPORTER: BEFORE...WILL ANY PROTEST IN ANY FORM BE MADE?

THIRACHAI: ON MARCH 4? NO. WE WILL GO WITH GOOD INTENTIONS AS GOOD FRIENDS, USING REASON AND COMMONSENSE. IT COULD BE CALLED GOING AND BEHAVING LIKE ADULTS, NOT CARRYING ANY POSTERS OR BEHAVING OR ACTING IN ANY WAY THAT IS AN EYESORE. END TEXT

3. AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THIRACHAI AND TWO OTHER NSCT REPRESENTATIVES, ACCOMPANIED BY A GAGGLE OF PHOTOGRAPHERS AND REPORTERS, APPEARED AT THE EMBASSY TO DELIVER A LETTER SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT MARCH 4 WITH THE AMBASSADOR.

4. THE DELEGATION HAS BEEN INVITED TO MEET WITH POLCOUNSELOR
MARCH 4 AT THE CHANCERY.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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